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Message Text

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43
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

ACDA-19 IO-14 EUR-25 AID-20 MC-02 OMB-01 USSS-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 /156 W
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P 151510Z OCT 73
FM USINT CAIRO
TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4034

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USIAC

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR EG IS MOPS
SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS REACTION OCTOBER 14

1. CAIRO DAILIES (10/14) FRONTPAGED "U.S. VIOLATION" OF EGYPT'S AIRSPACE AND REPORTED U.S. MILITARY AID TO ISRAEL.

2. AL-AHRAM'S STORIES WERE IN SECOND LEAD POSITION. THREE-COLUMN UPPER LEFT HEADLINE READ "U.S. VIOLATION OF EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN AIRSPACE BY TWO SR-71 PLANES FLYING 25 KMS HIGH--CAIRO STRONGLY PROTESTS AGAINST THIS OVERT AMERICAN PROVOCATION." STORY SUPPLEMENTED WITH COLUMN-AND-HALF MAP SHOWING PLANES' ALLEGED ROUTE OVER EGYPT AND SYRIA. ON PAGE TWO, WERE STORY CONTINUED, AL-AHRAM PUBLISHED TWO-COLUMN PHOTO OF "STRATEGIC RECONNAISSANCE PLANE." IN A SEPARATE ONE-COLUMN FRONT PAGE ITEM, AL-AHRAM REPORTED "STRONG EGYPTIAN PROTEST" AGAINST "GRAVE CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH AGGRESSION."
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3. IN SAME TWO-COLUMN BOX THAT CARRIED CONTINUATION REPORT QUOTING SYRIAN EMBASSY SOURCES STATING PHANTOM "CARRYING US AIR FORCE MARKINGS AND FLOWN BY US PILOT (VIETNAM VETERAN) WAS SHOT DOWN BY SYRIA." SYRIAN EMBASSY SOURCES SAID PLAN "BELONGED TO SIXTH FLEET." A COMMUNIQUE BY ARAB AMBASSADORS IN PARIS, AFP CONTINUED, SAID SHOOTING DOWN THE PLANE "MEANS US PLANES HAD PARTICIPATED IN BOMBING DAMASCUS."

4. "VIOLATION" STORY WAS SUPPLEMENTED BY TWO-COLUMN WIRE SERVICE REPORT IN MIDDLE RIGHT FRONT PAGE ON US MILITARY AID TO ISRAEL. HEADLINE READ: "WASHINGTON DECLARES ITS DECISION--SUPPLYING ISRAEL WITH PLANES AND TANKS."

5. AL-AHRAM'S MAIN EDITORIAL CRITICIZED BBC AND OTHER MEDIA "IN ADDITION TO U.S. MEDIA" FOR STILL BELIEVING ISRAELI COMMUNIQUES AND SUSPECTING ARABS. COLUMNIST ALI HAMDI EL-GAMMAL SAID ZIONIST PROPAGANDA CONCERNING "NEW US SUPPORT TO ISRAEL" AIMS AT AFFECTING ARABS' PSYCHOLOGY.

6. AL-AHRAM FOREIGN NEWS PAGE CARRIED WIRE SERVICE STORIES ABOUT NEW VICE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE FORD BEING "GREAT FRIEND OF ISRAELIS," US NAVAL MANEUVERS IN TURKISH WATERS, ARAB DELIBERATIONS ON "USING ARAB OIL IN BATTLE" AND CUTTING DOWN US FLIGHTS BECAUSE OF FUEL CRISIS.

7. IN AL-AKHBAR, THE "VIOLATION" AND "AID" STORIES WERE PUBLISHED IN MIDDLE OF FRONT PAGE. HEADLINES: "TWO US PLANES VIOLATE EGYPTIAN AIR SPACE--EGYPT ASKS FOR IMMEDIATE EXPLANATION FROM AMERICA." COMMENTARY PUBLISHED INSIDE "VIOLATION" BOX MAINTAINED "IT IS NO SECRET US SATELLITES ARE USED TO SPY ON ARAB FORCES ON ISRAEL'S BEHALF" AND THAT "TOP US OFFICIALS SPY FOR ISRAEL."

8. "AID" STORY WAS ATTRIBUTED TO WIRE SERVICES, HEADLINED "AMERICAN AIRLIFT OF ARMS TO ISRAEL."
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9. THREE-COLUMN STORY IN THE BOTTOM LEFT CORNER OF FRONT PAGE QUOTED WIRE SERVICES ON "WORLD EMERGENCY MEASURES TO FACE OIL CRISIS" AND "DISCONTINUING EUROPEAN EXPORTS OF REFINED OIL TO US."

10. A BOXED HEADLINE ON THE TOP OF THE AKHBAR MASTHEAD READ "STRONG EGYPTIAN PROTEST AGAINST AMERICA FOR THE

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VIOLATION OF TWO US PLANES OF OUR AIRSPACE."

11. FRONT PAGE COLUMNIST MOUSSA SABRY SAID "THE ENEMY IS TRYING TO SCORE VICTORY BY ALL MEANS AND THROUGH US AID." MAIN INSIDE EDITORIAL STATED "EXCEPT FOR US, NATIONS OF WORLD ARE NOT SUPPORTING ISRAEL."

12. AL-GOMHOURIYA GAVE LEAST PLAY TO "VIOLATION" AND "AID" STORIES. TWO-COLUMN HEADLINE ON MIDDLE LEFT SIDE READ "NIXON TOOK DECISION TO SUPPLY ISRAEL WITH PLANES, TANKS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT." ONE-COLUMN STORY CARRIED FOLLOWING HEADLINE: "TWO AMERICANS PLANES FLY OVER EGYPT FOR 25 MINUTES." ON UPPER RIGHT FRONT PAGE WAS ANOTHER ONE-COLUMN STORY HEADED "US PLANES JOIN ISRAELI PLANES IN SHELLING DAMASCUS."

13. AL-GOMHOURIYA'S LOCAL PAGE CARRIED TWO ONE-COLUMN STORIES ON EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY PROTEST AGAINST SR-71 FLIGHTS AND FEISAL'S THREAT HE WOULD STOP OIL "IF US PARTICIPATION IN THE BATTLE IS PROVED."

14. ON LESS IMPORTANT PAGE, USUALLY RESERVED FOR CONTINUATIONS, A ONE-COLUMN STORY SUPPLEMENTING THE MAIN COVERAGE OF THE EGYPTIAN FRONT QUOTED "WIRE SERVICES" SAYING "NUMBER OF US OFFICERS HOLDING DUAL NATIONALITY WERE AMONG ISRAELI TROOPS IN SINAI."

15. EGYPTIAN MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS OBTAINING LEAD COVERAGE IN EGYPTIAN PRESS BECAUSE OF HIGH SENSE OF VICTORY HERE. PRESS IS BECOMING MORE CONSCIOUS AND MORE CJITICAL OF ALLEGED US PRO-ISRAELI ROLE.
SMITH

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